

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1988
AMEMBASSY LONDON

CONFIDENTIAL NEW DELHI 14510

FOLLOWING TEL SENT NEW DELHI INFO DACCA AND HONG KONG FROM
CALCUTTA OCT 31, 1975, REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL CALCUTTA 2581

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, CH, BG, IN
SUBJ: GENERAL JACOB ON BANGLADESH, CHINA AND THE NORTHEAST

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL JACOB (COMMANDER OF INDIAN ARMY'S EASTERN REGION) AT DINNER AT MY RESIDENCE OCTOBER 30, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS MENTIONED CONCERN HDEHAD FOUND DURING HIS VISIT TO BANGLADESH OVER POSSIBILITY OF INDIAN MILITARY INTERVENTION. JACOB REPLIED THAT HE HAD NO INTEREST IN

BECOMING INVOLVED IN BANGLADESH'S GARGANTUAN PROBLEMS AND AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED "THE PLACE CAN SINK". IN ANY EVENT HE WAS NOT IN POSITION TO INTERVENE AS, HE SAID, HE HAD ONLY THREE BATTALLIONS IN PROXIMITY TO THE BANGLADESH BORDER, TWO IN WEST BENGAL AND A THIRD IN THE TRIPURA AREA. JACOB INDICATED THAT HIS MAIN CONCERN IS THE CHINESE BORDER. HE SAID HE WAS WELL AWARE OF BANGLADESH ARMY FEARS OF INDIAN INTERVENTION AS HE WAS READING THEIR TRAFFIC.

2. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH A CONGEN OFFICER, JACOB
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EXPRESSED A STRONG PERSONAL DISLIKE FOR THE CHINESE AND SAID

THERE HAD BEEN AN INCIDENT RECENTLY ALONG THE INDIAN-CHINESE BORDER IN WHICH THE CHINESE HAD "DONE SOMETHING TERRIBLE". CONGEN OFFICER TRIED TO DRAW JACOB OUT BUT HE WOULD GIVE NO DETAILS. HE DID HOWEVER ALLUDE TO AN ARTICLE IN THE LONDON TIMES IN LAST TWO WEEKS WHICH CONGEN OFFICER GATHERED MADE SOME MENTION OF THIS INCIDENT.

3. JACOB ALSO SAID THAT THE CHINESE HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN SUPPORTING TRIBAL INSURGENCY IN THE NORTHEAST WITH GUNS AND TRAINING BUT THAT THE INDIAN ARMY HAD INTERCEPTED MOST OF THE INDIVIDUALS AND WEAPONS COMING FROM CHINA.

KORN UNQUOTE
SAXBE

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